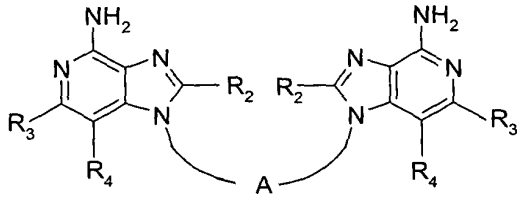
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula (I):



I

wherein:

A is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkenylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene; and

-Z-Y-W-Y-Z-;

each Z is independently selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{2-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkenylene; and

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene;

any of which may be optionally interrupted by -O-, -$N(R_5)$-, or –$S(O)_2$-;

each Y is independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond;

-$N(R_5)C(O)$-;

-$C(O)N(R_5)$-;

-$N(R_5)C(O)N(R_5)$-;

- $N(R_5)S(O)_2$-;

-$S(O)_2N(R_5)$-;

-OC(O)O-;

-OC(O)-;

-C(O)O-;

-$N(R_5)C(O)O$-; and

-$OC(O)N(R_5)$-;

W is selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{2-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{2-20} alkenylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene;

straight or branched chain perfluoro C_{2-20} alkylene;

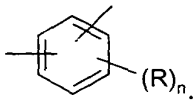
C_{1-4} alkylene-O-C_{1-4} alkylene;

-C(O)-;

-$S(O)_2$-;

-OC(O)O-;

-$N(R_5)C(O)N(R_5)$-;



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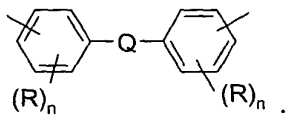

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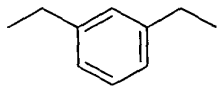

;

1,5-naphthylene;

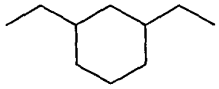
2,6-pyridinylene;

1,2-cyclohexylene;

1,3-cyclohexylene;

1,4-cyclohexylene;

trans-1,4-cyclohexylene;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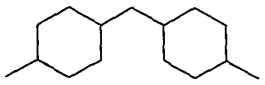

; and

trans-5-norbornen-2,3-diyl;

wherein n is 0 - 4; each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, and halogen; and Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -CH_2-, and -O-;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-alkyl-X-alkyl;

-alkyl-X-aryl;

-alkyl-X- alkenyl; and

-alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_6)_2$;

-$C(O)$-$N(R_6)_2$;

-$C(S)$-$N(R_6)_2$;

-$S(O)_2$-$N(R_6)_2$;

-$N(R_6)$-$C(O)$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$N(R_6)$-$C(S)$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$N(R_6)$- $S(O)_2$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$C(O)$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$C(O)$-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-substituted heterocyclyl;

-C(O)-aryl;

-C(O)-(substituted aryl);

-C(O)-heteroaryl; and

-C(O)-(substituted heteroaryl);

R_3 and R_4 are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-halogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-X-alkyl; and

$-N(R_6)_2$;

or when taken together, R_3 and R_4 form a fused aryl or heteroaryl ring that is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-halogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-X-alkyl; and

$-N(R_6)_2$;

or when taken together, R_3 and R_4 form a fused 5 to 7 membered saturated ring, containing 0 to 2 heteroatoms and unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-halogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-X-alkyl; and

$-N(R_6)_2$;

each R_5 is independently selected from the group consisting of:

hydrogen;

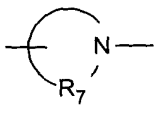
C_{1-6} alkyl;

C_{3-7} cycloalkyl; and

benzyl; or

when Y is $-N(R_5)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R_5)-$, $-N(R_5)C(O)N(R_5)-$, $-N(R_5)S(O)_2-$,

$-S(O_2)N(R_5)-$, $-N(R_5)C(O)O-$, or $-OC(O)N(R_5)-$ and the nitrogen of the $N(R_5)$ group is bonded to Z, then R_5 can join with Z to form a ring having the structure



;

each R_6 is independently hydrogen or C_{1-10} alkyl;

R_7 is C_{3-8} alkylene; and

X is -O- or -S-;

with the proviso that if W is $-C(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-OC(O)O-$, or $-N(R_5)C(O)N(R_5)-$ then each Y is a bond;

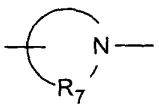
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein A is straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkylene.

3. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein A is -Z-Y-W-Y-Z-.

4. A compound or salt of claim 3 wherein Z is straight or branched chain C_{2-20} alkylene optionally interrupted by -O-.

5. A compound or salt of claim 4 wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of straight or branched chain C_{2-4} alkylene and C_{1-4} alkylene-O-C_{1-4} alkylene.

6. A compound or salt of claim 3 wherein R_5 is joined with Z to form a ring having the structure 

wherein R_7 is C_{4-6} alkylene;

7. A compound or salt of claim 3 wherein each Y is independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond;

$-N(R_5)C(O)-$;

$-C(O)N(R_5)-$;

$-N(R_5)C(O)N(R_5)-$;

$-S(O)_2N(R_5)$; and

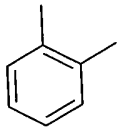
$-N(R_5)S(O)_2-$.

8. A compound or salt of claim 7 wherein R_5 is hydrogen.

9. A compound or salt of claim 3 wherein W is selected from the group consisting of

straight or branched chain $C_{2\text{-}20}$ alkylene;

$-N(R_5)C(O)N(R_5)-$;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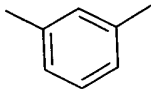
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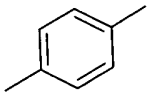
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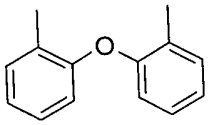
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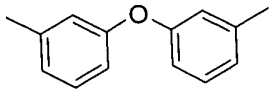
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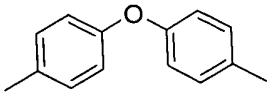

;

1,2-cyclohexylene;

1,3-cyclohexylene;

1,4-cyclohexylene; and

trans-1,4-cyclohexylene.

10. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and alkyl-O- alkyl.

11. A compound or salt of claim 10 wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, cyclopropylmethyl, ethoxymethyl and methoxyethyl.

12. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_3 and R_4 taken together form a fused benzene ring.

13. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_3 and R_4 taken together form a fused pyridine ring.

14. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_3 and R_4 taken together form a six membered saturated ring.

15. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_3 and R_4 taken together form a six membered saturated ring containing a nitrogen atom.

16. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl.

17. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
N,*N*'-bis[4-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]urea;
N,N"-1,3-phenylenebis{N'-[4-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]urea};

N-[4-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N'*-(4-{4-[({[4-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]phenoxy}phenyl)urea;

N,N"-*trans*-1,4-cyclohexylenebis{N'-[4-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]urea};

N,N'-bis(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)benzene-1,3-disulfonamide;

N,N'-bis(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)terephthalamide;

N,N"-1,8-octanediylbis[N'-(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)urea]; and

1-[10-(4-amino-2-ethoxymethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)decyl]-2-ethoxymethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 to the animal.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the compound or salt is administered topically.

22. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 17 to the animal.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the compound or salt is administered topically.

24. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 the animal.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the compound or salt is administered topically.

26. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 17 to the animal.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the compound or salt is administered topically.

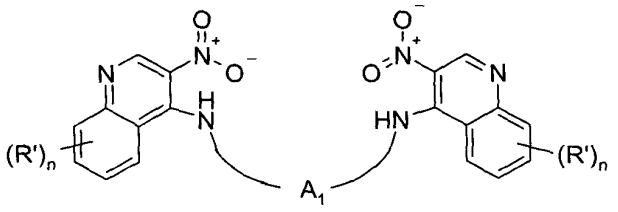
28. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 to the animal.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the compound or salt is administered topically.

30. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 17 to the animal.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the compound or salt is administered topically.

32. A compound of Formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

A_1 is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkenylene; and

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene;

any of which may be optionally interrupted by $-S(O)_2-$ or a protected -C(O)-;

n is 0 to 4;

each R' present is independently selected from the group consisting of:

halogen;

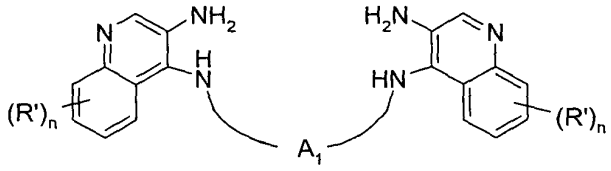
alkyl;

alkenyl; and

-O-alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. A compound of Formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

A_1 is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkenylene; and

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene;

any of which may be optionally interrupted by $-S(O)_2-$ or a protected -C(O)-;

n is 0 to 4;

each R' present is independently selected from the group consisting of:

halogen;

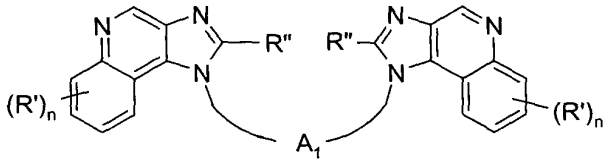
alkyl;

alkenyl; and

-O-alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. A compound of Formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein:

A_1 is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkenylene; and

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene;

any of which may be optionally interrupted by $-S(O)_2-$ or a protected -C(O)-;

R" is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-alkyl-O-alkyl;

-alkyl-O-aryl;

-alkyl-O- alkenyl; and

-alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-C(O)-N(R_6)$_2$;

-C(S)-N(R_6)$_2$;

-S(O)$_2$-N(R_6)$_2$;

-N(R_6)-C(O)-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N(R_6)-C(S)-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N(R_6)- S(O)$_2$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-C(O)-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-C(O)-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-substituted heterocyclyl;

-C(O)-aryl;

-C(O)-(substituted aryl);

-C(O)-heteroaryl; and

-C(O)-(substituted heteroaryl);

n is 0 to 4;

each R' present is independently selected from the group consisting of:

halogen;

alkyl;

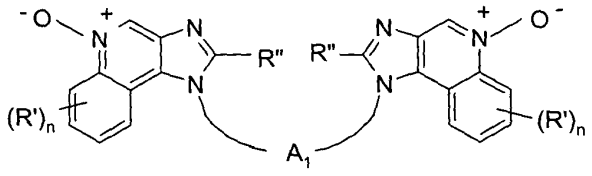
alkenyl; and

-O-alkyl;

each R_6 is independently hydrogen or C_{1-10} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. A compound of Formula (V):



(V)

wherein:

A_1 is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkylene;

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkenylene; and

straight or branched chain C_{4-20} alkynylene;

any of which may be optionally interrupted by $-S(O)_2-$ or a protected -C(O)-;

R" is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-alkyl-O-alkyl;

-alkyl-O-aryl;

-alkyl-O- alkenyl; and

-alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

$-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$;

-$C(S)N(R_6)_2$;

-$S(O)_2$-$N(R_6)_2$;

-$N(R_6)$-$C(O)$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$N(R_6)$-$C(S)$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$N(R_6)$- $S(O)_2$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$C(O)$-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-$C(O)$-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-substituted heterocyclyl;

-C(O)-aryl;

-C(O)-(substituted aryl);

-C(O)-heteroaryl; and

-C(O)-(substituted heteroaryl);

n is 0 to 4;

each R' present is independently selected from the group consisting of:

halogen;

alkyl;

alkenyl; and

-O-alkyl;

each R_6 is independently hydrogen or C_{1-10} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.